

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The welding wire storage device according to claim 6, wherein the coupling mechanisms are each designed as a quick-lock.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The welding wire storage device according to claim 6, wherein elements for delimiting maximum deflection of the wire core are arranged in the housing.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The welding wire storage device according to claim 6, wherein an element for fastening a hose pack is arranged on an opposite side of the free space of the housing.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The welding wire storage device according to claim 6, wherein the housing is arranged between a welding apparatus or wire feeder and a welding torch,

wherein a hose pack is arranged directly, without interruption, between the welding apparatus or wire feeder and the welding torch, and wherein the wire core is interrupted in the housing.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A welding wire storage device for a welding system comprising:

- (a) a housing having a free space, a first end region and a second end region opposite the first end region;
- (b) a wire core surrounding a welding wire and arcuately arranged in the housing to form a wire core radius in the housing and to lie freely in the free space of the housing, said wire core having a first end fixed in the first end region of the housing;
- (c) a measuring device for detecting deflection of the wire core, the measuring device being disposed within the housing and being able to detect the deflection of the wire core by measuring a change in the wire core radius;
- (d) a guide element on the second end region displaceably mounting the wire core;
- (e) a wire guide hose for the wire core, the wire guide hose comprising a first wire guide hose section and a second wire guide hose section; and

(f) first and second coupling mechanisms arranged on the housing for connection with the wire guide hose;

wherein the housing is arranged within the wire guide hose  
in that:

the first coupling mechanism is arranged at the first  
end region of the housing and connects the housing with the first  
wire guide hose section; and

the second coupling mechanism is arranged at the second  
end region of the housing and connects the housing with the  
second wire guide hose section.